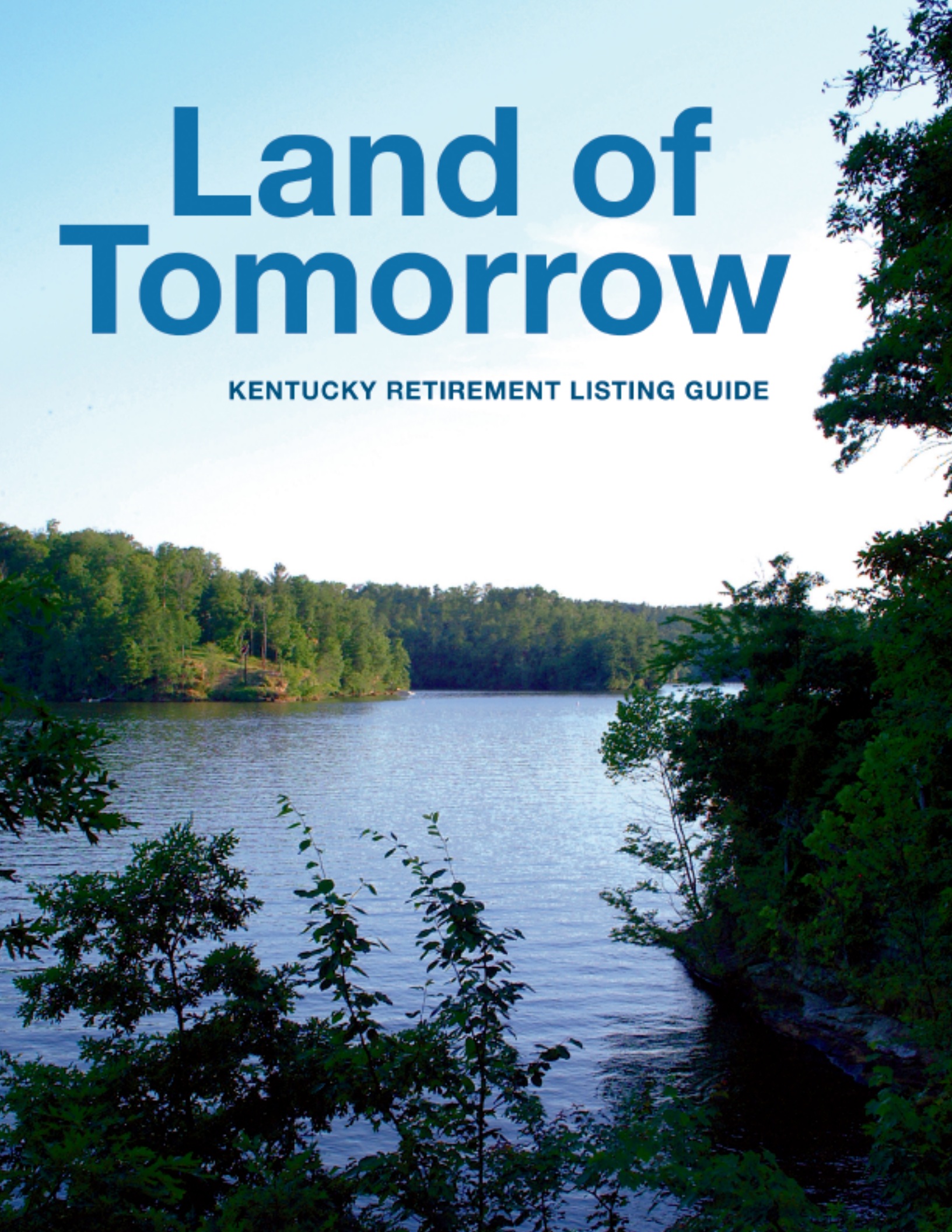


Land of Tomorrow

KENTUCKY RETIREMENT LISTING GUIDE



The background of the page is a photograph of a church interior. It shows several rows of wooden pews in the foreground, leading towards a large, multi-paned window in the background. The walls are also made of wood, and the lighting is warm and natural, coming from the window.

CONTENTS

- 4 Quality of Life
 - Education
 - Health Care
 - Security
- 5 Population
 - Cost of Living
 - Housing
 - Taxes
- 6 Military & Veterans Affairs
- 7 Transportation
 - Climate
 - Recreation & Culture
- 8 Certified Retirement Communities

Information for this publication was provided by
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
Department of Revenue
Department of Travel
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Aging Services
Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs
Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center

Published by
Kentucky Commerce Cabinet
500 Mero Street, 24th floor
Frankfort, KY 40601



Welcome to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This publication will show you why Kentucky is “The Land of Tomorrow” and a great location for retirement. A visit to our state will provide you with an understanding of the many advantages we offer to people who choose the Bluegrass State for their retirement years.

This is one of the most beautiful places anyone could want, with a diversity reaching from the heights of eastern Kentucky’s mountains to the fascinating underworld of southern Kentucky’s caves, from the rolling hills of the Bluegrass horse country to western Kentucky’s water wonderlands. In just a short time, you can travel from the byways and tradition of our small communities to cities that offer venues for culture, outstanding medical centers and shopping.

Kentucky is a premier retirement location – low crime rate, mild climate, low cost-of-living, low overall tax rate, excellent recreational facilities and friendly neighbors. Wherever you go, wherever you live, you are always surrounded by Kentucky’s renowned hospitality.

Kentucky offers a new program designating certain areas as Certified Retirement Communities. These communities have met specific criteria dealing with services and programs that benefit retirees. A list of those communities and a description of their amenities is listed on the back of this brochure.

We hope you consider Kentucky for your retirement home.

Come to see it.

Come back to stay.

You are truly welcome in Kentucky.



HEALTH CARE

State-of-the-art health care and nationally renowned medical research make Kentucky a leader in finding cures to improve the lives of our citizens. Jewish Hospital in Louisville is the eighth largest open-heart surgery center, and its transplant program is one of the largest in the nation. Six research areas at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine are ranked in the Top 20 for NIH funding among departments at public institutions. Researchers at UK have contributed vital knowledge to areas such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, stroke, cardiovascular disease, drug development, and spinal cord and head injuries.

Kentucky's health-care network includes 126 hospitals and 316 long-term care facilities. A complete listing can be found at http://chs.ky.gov/oig/oigdirectory/OIG_Directories.htm.

SECURITY

When they were asked if they usually trust other people or are wary of them, more than 50 percent of Kentuckians who responded to surveys in 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 indicated that they are more likely to trust others. Based on cumulative data collected from 1972 to 2002, approximately 39.4 percent of Americans say that, generally speaking, most people can be trusted compared to 56.2 percent who said that you can't be too careful in dealing with people. These trust levels are substantially lower than those found in the Commonwealth, where the latest data from 2002 show that 60 percent feel they can usually trust others.

The Kentucky Attorney General's office has programs to assist older citizens. Visit <http://www.kyattorneygeneral.com>.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Kentuckians have united to make our state a better place to live. From a national model of education reform to low crime rates, low cost utilities, and affordable housing, Kentuckians are not content to let the bluegrass grow under their feet. Important from a citizen's as well as is access to higher education, low cost of living, a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities, and a moderate climate all of which Kentucky offers abundantly.

EDUCATION

The state has made big strides in building a new educational system from pre-school through postsecondary, including implementation of the Kentucky Educational Reform Act of 1990. The positive results of these efforts are seen in increasingly higher academic achievement levels.

Postsecondary Education:

Kentucky's system of public postsecondary education includes eight universities, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and the Kentucky Virtual University. There are 19 independent or private colleges and universities.

<http://education.ky.gov/>
<http://www.cpe.state.ky.us>
<http://www.kctcs.edu/>
<http://www.kcvu.org/home.htm>

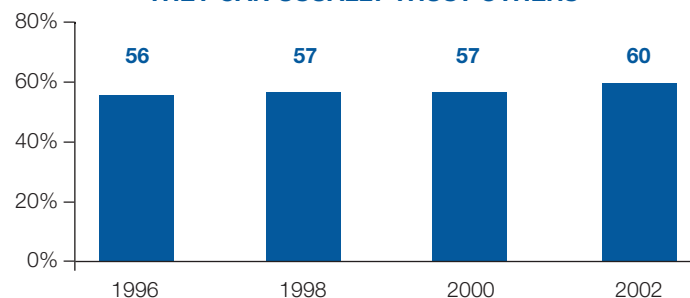
ELDERHOSTELS

The Kentucky Elderhostel network includes more than 50 colleges and universities, state resorts, environmental centers, private institutions and other agencies offering week-long courses for everyone, regardless of educational background or training.

Many of the course available offer unique, "hands-on" experiences to reinforce classroom learning. A geology course, for instance, may include a field trip to Mammoth Cave National Park.

For more information contact:
 Kentucky Elderhostel
 The Appalachian College Program
 643 Maxwellton Court
 University of Kentucky
 Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0350
 859-257-5234

**PERCENT OF KENTUCKIANS WHO SAY
THEY CAN USUALLY TRUST OTHERS**



**CRIME RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION (2001)
STATE CRIME RATE**

	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLE	THEFT
Alabama	4,319.4	486.2	4,059.7	288.0
Arkansas	4,134.2	445.3	3,670.0	259.3
Georgia	4,646.3	504.7	4,246.4	472.8
Illinois	4,097.8	656.8	3,774.1	429.7
Indiana	3,831.4	349.1	3,402.8	346.8
Kentucky	2,938.1	257.0	2,577.5	217.9
Michigan	4,081.5	555.0	3,554.9	560.7
Mississippi	4,185.2	360.9	3,643.5	245.0
Missouri	4,776.1	490.0	4,037.7	441.4
North Carolina	4,938.0	497.6	4,421.8	313.9
Ohio	4,177.6	334.1	3,707.7	343.7
South Carolina	4,752.7	804.9	4,416.5	379.0
Tennessee	5,152.8	707.2	4,183.0	483.9
Virginia	3,178.3	281.7	2,746.4	251.6
West Virginia	2,559.5	316.5	2,286.3	183.3
United States	4,160.5	506.1	3,617.9	414.2

SOURCE: U.S. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES, 2001

POPULATION

Statewide	4,041,769
-----------	-----------

KENTUCKY'S TOP TEN CITIES BY POPULATION

Metro Louisville	693,604
Lexington-Fayette Co.	260,512
Owensboro	54,067
Bowling Green	49,296
Covington	43,370
Hopkinsville	30,089
Frankfort	27,741
Henderson	27,343
Richmond	27,152
Paducah	26,307

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2000

COST OF LIVING

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX CITY COMPOSITE INDEX

Bowling Green	94.8
Hopkinsville	91.3
Lexington	94.0
Louisville	91.9
Murray	86.8
Paducah	90.1
Somerset	93.6
U.S.	100.0

SOURCE: ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX, FIRST QUARTER, 2003.

HOUSING

The lower than national average cost of living makes owning a home more affordable in Kentucky. In addition, Kentucky offers all the amenities a homeowner hopes to find. Economical utility rates, low property taxes, and quality schools are enjoyed by homeowners across the Commonwealth.

The median sale price of homes in Kentucky (\$104,810) ranks among the lowest in the U.S. Just as the state offers a diverse combination of rural and metropolitan life, the availability of housing ranges from starter homes to executive homes.

Kentucky ranked 28th nationally in 2002 for new housing units authorized with 18,862. (Morgan Quitno State Rankings 2003)

Kentucky ranked 14th in home ownership rate for 2002: 73.5%. (U.S. Census Bureau)

For more housing information:

Kentucky Association of Realtors
161 Prosperous Place
Lexington, Kentucky 40509
800-264-2185
<http://www.kar.com>

Home Builders Association of Kentucky
1040 Burlington Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-875-5480
<http://www.hbak.com>

TAXES

- Kentucky per capita state and local property taxes are the 6th lowest in the nation. (Morgan Quitno State Rankings 2003)
- Net income for Kentucky individual income taxes is gross income minus either the standard deduction (\$1,870 in 2004) and is indexed to the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Pension income is wholly exempt from Kentucky income tax, up to a limit of \$35,700
- For the Tax Year 2004, Kentucky allows a \$40,200 exclusion of pension benefits from Kentucky taxable income.
- Land, building and other real estate were taxed by the state at \$0.133 per \$100 of assessed valuation in 2003.
- The Homestead/Disability exemption amount, deducted from the assessed value of persons 65 or older or classified as permanently disabled by any retirement system is currently \$28,000 for 2003-04 (with cost of living adjustments every two years).
- Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Roth IRA proceeds are exempt from Kentucky taxation.
- Two additional tax credits of \$40 are allowed for taxpayers 65 years or older.
- Kentucky allows a reduction of taxable income for 100 percent of Long-term Care Insurance and Health Insurance Premiums.

INHERITANCE AND ESTATE TAX

Kentucky's Inheritance Tax is a tax on a beneficiary's right property from a deceased person. Surviving spouses are exempt from this tax. Due to a law change enacted by the 1995 General Assembly, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and parents are also exempt.

Kentucky like all other states, imposes an estate tax. The estate tax is the difference between the Kentucky Inheritance Tax and Kentucky's portion of the state death tax credit on the federal return. If a federal estate tax return is not required, then no Kentucky estate tax is due.

STATE SALES AND USE TAX

The state sales tax is 6.0 percent, with no local sales taxes. Major exemptions include take-home food, residential utilities except telephone, prescription medicines, diabetic and other medical supplies, prosthetic devices, physical aids, motor fuels, raw material of manufacturers, manufacturing machinery, pollution control equipment and items for resale.

Kentucky's tax structure is based on the Internal Revenue Code, therefore benefits such as capital gains exclusion for selling a personal residence are the same as for federal purposes.

The Kentucky Revenue Cabinet provides taxpayers assistance, publications and tax forms online at the following website: www.revenue.ky.gov





MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Military pensions are not taxed in Kentucky. There are commissary and exchange facilities at Ft. Knox in Radcliff and Ft. Campbell in Hopkinsville.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS:

Fort Campbell, Kentucky located near Hopkinsville, in Western KY

Fort Knox, located near Elizabethtown and Radcliff in Central KY

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs:
BG Les Beavers, USA (Ret.), Commissioner
1111 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502/564-1864

VA Medical Centers
Louisville, Ky VA Medical Center
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
502/894-6200

Lexington, Kentucky VA Medical Center
2250 Leestown Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Kentucky State Veterans' Nursing Homes
Thomson-Hood Veterans Center
100 Veterans Drive
Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
800/572-6245

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center (Opening FY 2002)
Hazard, Kentucky

Western Kentucky Veterans Center (Opening FY 2002)
Hanson, Kentucky

NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERIES

Camp Nelson National Cemetery
Nicholasville, Kentucky

Lebanon National Cemetery
Lebanon, Kentucky

Mill Springs National Cemetery
Nancy, Kentucky

KENTUCKY STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

Western Kentucky State Veterans Cemetery
Located in the Hopkinsville, Kentucky area.
Projected to open in December 2002.

Central Kentucky State Veterans Cemetery
Will be located near Fort, Knox, Kentucky.

Plans are underway for state veterans cemeteries in Northern and Eastern Kentucky.

ADDITIONAL MILITARY ENTITIES

Department of Military Affairs
Boone National Guard Center
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs
Office of the Governor
66 Wilkinson Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

100th Training Division (Army reserves)
3600 Century Division Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40205

Bluegrass Army Depot
2091 Kingston Highway
Richmond, Kentucky 40475





RECREATION & CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

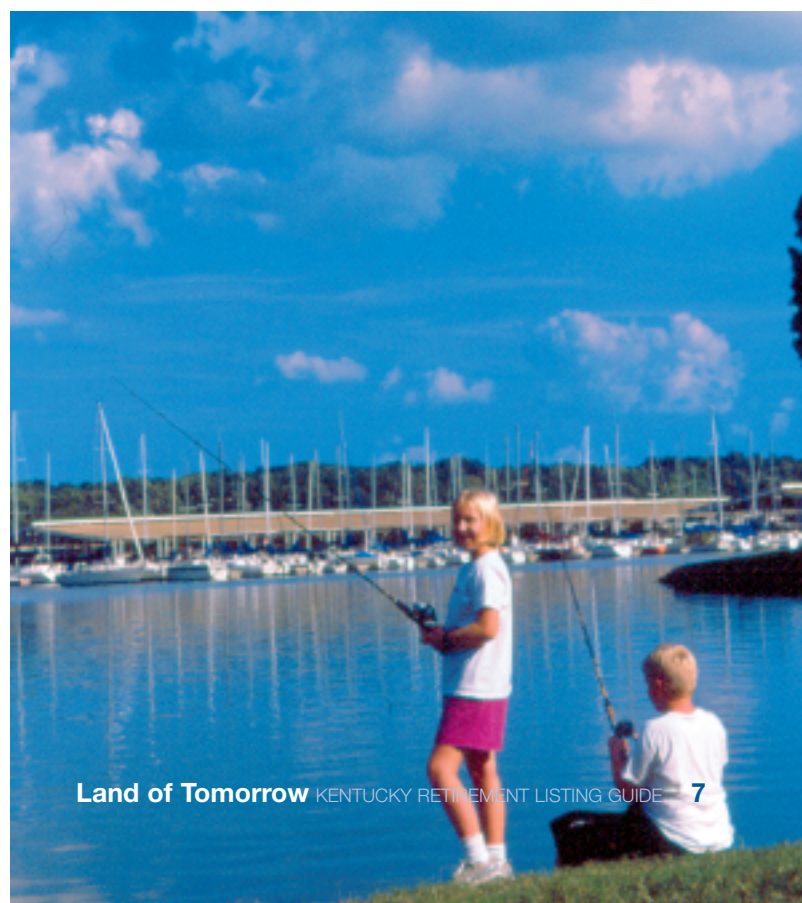
Kentucky has:

- more than 1,100 miles of navigable waterways
- more than 400 museums covering everything from Civil War to baseball to bourbon
- hundreds of art galleries, shops and showcases featuring the state's famous crafts and artisans
- 14 regional summer theaters, and many community-based fine arts performance centers
- more than 4,000 individual listings on the National Register of Historic Places (ranking fourth in the nation)
- 49 state parks that run the gamut from small historic shrines to full-scale resorts

The climate is mild. You can't find better year-round freshwater fishing anywhere than in the streams and lakes of Kentucky, where striped bass, brook trout and muskie are just a few of the species that abound. Golfers can play ten or more months a year on one of the 160-plus public golf courses.

There are hundreds of miles of hiking trails throughout Kentucky's scenic countryside. The State Park system maintains 150 miles of trails. Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail is located in the Daniel Boone National Forest, and other trail systems can be found in the Red River Gorge, at Cave Run Lake, and the Big South Fork and Land Between the Lakes National Recreational Areas. Great back-road bike routes also crisscross the state and provide many opportunities to enjoy the diverse scenery and attractions of Kentucky.

For complete information on all of Kentucky's recreational and cultural offerings, contact the Kentucky Department of Travel at 800-225-8747 and ask for the *Great Getaway Guide*, or go to the website and download information about points of interest: www.kentuckytourism.com.



TRANSPORTATION

Kentucky is located within a day's drive of half the population of the United States with access to major airline hubs, interstates, railways and bus service.

HIGHWAY

Kentucky's highway system is composed of approximately 74,000 miles of federal, state, and local roads. Five interstate highways – I-75, I-64, I-65, I-24 and I-71. It has nine state parkways that offer multi-lane, limited access routes from border to border, and contribute to 1,370 miles of multi-lane limited-access highways. This integrated system of highways connects Kentucky with all major commercial centers in the eastern and central US.

For current road conditions call 511. You will hear information on Kentucky's interstates, parkways and major routes. While traveling, you can check road conditions at one of our Welcome Centers or highway rest areas.

If you are involved in an accident use this 800/222-5555 to reach the Kentucky State Police.

RAIL

Passenger service is provided by AMTRAK at Ashland, Maysville, South Shore and Fulton, Kentucky, as well as in the Louisville metropolitan area.

AIR

Commercial airports providing scheduled airline service in Kentucky are located in Erlanger (the Cincinnati/Northern

CLIMATE

Kentucky has a temperate climate that can make every season pleasurable. Many outdoor sports, like golf and hiking, are enjoyed for more than 10 months out of the year. The mean annual temperature ranges from 52°F in the northeast to 58°F in the southwest. January is the coldest month and July is the warmest. Annual precipitation averages about 45 inches, ranging from about 40 inches in the north at Covington to 53 inches in south central Kentucky. Snowfall is limited in many sections of the state.

Annually, it ranges from 5 to 10 inches in the southwestern sections to 25 inches in the northeastern sections and to 40 inches at higher elevations in the southeastern section of the state.

CERTIFIED RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Kentucky is an ideal choice for retirement living. All across the Commonwealth, communities large and small, offer a diverse choice of recreation, entertainment, and leisure living amenities. Under a new Kentucky program, the communities listed below have qualified to become Certified Retirement Communities, by meeting specific criteria developed in response to what retirees are seeking. For more information on a specific community please call the designated contact.

Campbellsville, pop. 10,500, is in Central Kentucky and is home to Campbellsville University, listed by Money Magazine and U.S. News and World Report as one of "America's Best Colleges." Nearby, Green River Lake State Park offers fishing, boating, hiking and several annual bass and muskie fishing tournaments, and is home to the only . For more information contact Jeffrey Schuhmann, Team Taylor County, at 270/465-9636, web site: www.teamtaylorcounty.com.

Danville, pop. 15,500, located in the heart of the Bluegrass area was designated "One of Ten Successful Small Towns in America" by Time Magazine. The community is rich in history, home to Constitution Square State Historic Site, prestigious Centre College, Norton Center for the Arts, the Ephraim McDowell House & Apothecary, and Pioneer Playhouse, a summer outdoor theater. For more information contact Kay Berggren, Executive Director, Danville Tourism Commission at 859/236-7794, web site: www.Danville-ky.com,

Glasgow, pop. 13,000 is situated in South Central Kentucky near Barren River Lake State Resort Park. With its 10,000-acre lake and 18-hole golf course, the park boasts excellent fishing and recreational opportunities. An annual event in Glasgow is the International Highland Games, reflecting the large number of early settlers who originated from Scotland and named the county seat for Glasgow, Scotland. For more information contact Bill Dearman, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce, 270/651-3161 web site: glasgowbarren.com,

Madisonville, pop. 19,300, is in Western Kentucky near the Land Between the Lakes National Outdoor Recreation Area. Two local country clubs in Madisonville provide 18-hole golf courses and the city park has a nine-hole golf course. The Glema Mahr Center

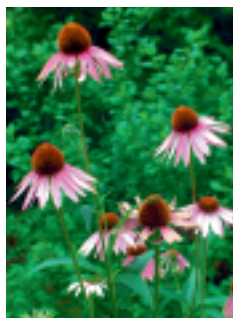
for the Arts is a performing and visual arts center which showcases regional art as well as musical and theatrical performances. For more information on Madisonville contact Lisa Miller, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce at -877-243-5280, web site: www.hopkinschamber.com.

Maysville, pop. 9,000, is an historic port city located on the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky. Its downtown district with charming homes, shops and restaurants and picturesque Floodwall Murals is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Just minutes away from Maysville is the historic village of Old Washington, and several of Kentucky's remarkable covered bridges. For more information contact Duff Giffen, Main Street Manager, 606/564-9411 web site: www.cityofmaysville.com.

Morehead, pop. 6,000, is located on the edge of the eastern foothills of Kentucky on I-64. Nearby, popular Cave Run Lake, with 8,270 square miles of shoreline, is famous for boating and the best muskie fishing in the south. Home of Morehead State University, the community offers a variety of cultural activities and outdoor recreational opportunities. For more information on Morehead contact Sheree Greer, Executive Director, Morehead Tourism Commission, 606/784-6221, . www.moreheadtourism.com

Murray, pop. 15,000, was named the number one retirement community in the United States in 1987. Home to Murray State University, it is located in Western Kentucky. Classes offered range from business to pottery to archaeology. Kenlake and Barkley Lake State Resorts are also nearby and there are numerous golf courses in the region. For more information on Murray contact Ryan Ray, Executive Director, Murray Tourism Commission at 270/759-2199, www.murraytourism.org

Richmond, pop. 27,000, is in central Kentucky and is the home of Eastern Kentucky University, White Hall State Historic Site and historic Bybee Pottery. Richmond offers a wide variety of fine dining, specialty shops, art galleries, historic churches, and outdoor recreation. Its Lake Reba Recreational Complex offers an outstanding golf course, fishing, boating, and outdoor festivals. For more information on Richmond contact Lori Barnes, Richmond Tourism Commission, 859/626-8474, website: www.richmond-ky.com,



For more information
contact Todd Cassidy at
todd.cassidy@ky.gov or
800/345-6591.